

May 1983

1983

Carrington arrives in Beirut

BERLUT (R) — Former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington arrived in Beirut Saturday for a three-day visit he said was to acquaint himself better with Lebanon's problems. He told reporters he was invited by President Amin Gemayel through Foreign Minister Elias Salim. "Though I am no longer in office, it would be a good idea if somebody from my country had a better understanding of what was happening in Lebanon and Lebanon's problems," he told reporters at Beirut airport. Referring to the recent Middle East visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Lord Carrington said: "Everyone must wish him well. Of course (foreign troop withdrawal) is absolutely vital and it's certainly a precondition of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East that there should be a Lebanon run by Lebanon."

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The Jordan Times... will not be published tomorrow, Monday, May 2, due to the Labour Day holiday which falls today, May 1. We wish all our readers and advertisers a happy holiday.

3 Israeli troops killed in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers were killed Friday in two separate incidents in Lebanon, it was reported. Two of the soldiers were killed when unidentified gunmen fired two rocket-propelled grenades at their jeep near Lebanon's coastal highway, 25 kilometres south of Beirut. The third soldier was killed north of Sidon, when the vehicle in which he was riding struck a mine.

Czech communists off to Israel

VIENNA (R) — A Czechoslovak Communist Party central committee delegation left Prague for Tel Aviv Saturday at the invitation of the Israeli Communist Party, the official Ceteka news agency reported. The delegation was headed by Zdenek Sojka, director of the institute of Marxism in Prague, the agency added.

Soviet press attache leaves Switzerland

BERNE (R) — The Soviet embassy press attache left Switzerland earlier this week and will not return to the Swiss foreign ministry said. A ministry spokesman said Leonid Ovtchinnikov, who was also first secretary at the embassy, left the country on Wednesday.

Iran replaces Navy commander

LONDON (R) — Iran named a new naval commander Saturday without giving any reason for the change. The national news agency IRNA said Capt. Esfandyar Husseini was named to replace Capt. Bahram Afzali at the suggestion of Iran's supreme defence council, which groups the country's military and spiritual leaders.

4 policemen hurt in Londonderry

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — A bomb slightly wounded four policemen in a riot by 200 Catholic youths during which police fired live warning shots in the air, police said Saturday. Police also fired 37 plastic bullets to break up the overnight rioting in a Roman Catholic area of Londonderry.

George Balanchine dies at 79

NEW YORK (R) — George Balanchine, foremost American choreographer and co-founder of the New York City Ballet Company, died Saturday of pneumonia at Roosevelt Hospital at the age of 79.

Soviet Far East stricken by storms

MOSCOW (R) — Rainstorms and hurricane-force winds which brought freak snowstorms to northern China have also hit the Soviet Far East, closing ports and factories and destroying houses. TASS news agency, reporting the storms, indicated that the ports of Vladivostok and Nakhodka, which handle almost all Soviet Pacific trade, had been paralysed for several days by the storms.

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Hussein reiterates Jordan's stand in Beirut interview

'Jordan will not support U.S. plan without PLO'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Majesty King Hussein said in an interview published in Beirut Saturday that Jordan would not enter negotiations on the basis of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan without the agreement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"This is our firm and unequivocal stand because we believe that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," King Hussein was quoted by the independent Beirut daily Al Nahar newspaper as saying.

Asked by the paper what he would do if U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is in the region trying to revive flagging American Middle East peace efforts, asked him to negotiate without PLO backing,

"I will not bypass the PLO," King Hussein replied.

Earlier this month, talks between King Hussein and PLO lea-

lure to include the Soviet Union, which he said would have to be involved in any Middle East settlement.

"I believe a Soviet-American meeting is inevitable, but I hope it will not be too late for us," he added.

In the interview, King Hussein said that the Palestine problem constitutes the core of the whole Middle East issue and Israel should not be allowed to go on with its illegal practices to create a de facto situation that would distract world attention from the original issue.

The King said he had tried hard to initiate direct talks between the U.S. and the PLO "but the U.S. remained adamant". Washington refuses to deal directly with the PLO until it explicitly recognises Israel.

Jordan and the PLO continued to have constant contacts despite the breakdown of talks on the Reagan plan, King Hussein said.

Among obstacles facing the Reagan plan, King Hussein said,

the occupied Arab territories are now facing Israel's expansionist aims

and Israel's calls for establishing a Palestinian state outside their homeland, the King added.

The King said that in his view, the United States shoulders a major responsibility for peace in the region. American credibility is now facing a test in Lebanon and the U.S. should have brought about an Israeli pullout from Lebanon by the end of last year, but Israeli intransigence and rejection of the Reagan proposal, its illegal settlement policies and measures against Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories are obstructing all peace efforts, the King said.

(Continued on page 3)

'One family'

"Jordanians and Palestinians are one family and face the same challenges, dangers and destiny, but we hope that the Palestinians will be able to exercise their rights over their territory," King Hussein said.

The Palestinian people and the occupied Arab territories are now facing Israel's expansionist aims

Messages to leaders

Referring to his recent messages to Arab heads of state, King Hussein said: "They contained Jordan's views that it will reconsider its security arrangements in view of the dangers threatening us."

(Continued on page 3)

Badran: 'Our progress is remarkable'

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Saturday that Jordan has achieved remarkable economic and social development despite the numerous challenges it has faced.

He speaking at a conference in Amman, which discussed industrial issues.

Jordan is a country with meagre natural resources and stands in the front line in the Arab-Israeli conflict; it moreover suffers from a limited market. But, despite that, the country has been able to make important studies in development that have won international admiration and confidence," Mr. Badran said.

The Jordanian industrial sector, he added, has played a major role in development and helped to place the country in the forefront of developing nations.

"Not only did manufactured

Jordanian products meet the requirements of the local market, but they have found their way also to many regional markets; this great achievement should be maintained and enhanced through continuous modernisation and development so that Jordanian industry can become a basic source for the country's revenues," the prime minister said.

In his speech to the participants, mostly Jordanian businessmen and industrialists, the prime minister referred to the government's



Walid Asfour (left) delivers the keynote speech at a conference at the chamber of Industry Saturday.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Centre) flanked by Anman Chamber of Industry President Bandar Al Tabbaa' (right) and Minister of Industry and Trade

"Moreover, the government's various departments have laid the infrastructure for basic industries by making available modern and effective land and air transport services; we have introduced modern telecommunications and have built water and electricity networks. To this list should be added housing projects, training courses and housing estates and free zones. Above all, the government now and then enacts legisla-

tion that aim at promoting industry," Mr. Badran explained.

He urged industrialists and business to take stock of what had been achieved so far and to double their efforts for more improvements in the future.

Mr. Badran also invited the par-

ticipants to tackle all issues related

to industry and industrial pro-

duction and marketing and study

(Continued on page 3)

Air bubbles seen after attack on intruder by Norwegian frigate

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — The Norwegian navy Saturday reported seeing air bubbles on the surface of a fjord near here shortly after one of its frigates attacked a suspected foreign submarine with rockets and depth charges.

A naval spokesman said the frigate also had a hydrophone contact with the suspected intruder after the attack with five rockets

and one depth charge and immediately dispatched another five rockets.

But so far there had been no further response.

The spokesman said the search would continue at least until Sunday, but he declined to say how many ships were involved.

Earlier Saturday, Lt.-Gen. Sven Hauge, chairman of Norway's

(Continued on page 3)

Midsummer British elections likely

LONDON (R) — Political commentators Saturday predicted a midsummer British general election with June 23 the most favoured date.

One analyst said Mrs. Thatcher, who is riding high in opinion polls, may announce the poll date in a speech she plans to make on May 13 marking her first four years in power.

Mrs. Thatcher must go to the country before May next year, but some leading politicians are said to favour October.

The conservatives were boosted Friday by trade figures showing a strong performance by industry in March.

An opinion poll published in Saturday's Daily Star showed them maintaining a strong electoral lead with 46 per cent against

33 per cent for the main opposition Labour Party and 21 per cent for the flagging two-party centrist alliance.

Most commentators now think Mrs. Thatcher will capitalise on a brightening economic climate, with industry predicting modest growth this year, and go for an early poll.

Daily Mirror political editor Terence Lancaster, tipping a June 23 poll, said it would leave a three-week election campaign after Mrs. Thatcher made a prestigious appearance at the Williamsburg summit of the industrial world's leaders.

The Economist business magazine said: "If she wants to go to Williamsburg she may be left with June 23 as the only realistic summer date." For the Conservatives, party chairman Cecil Parkinson called the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance "a collection of nobodies" unable to run a credible operation, let alone a government.

Mrs. Thatcher insists she will make no decision until she has served at least four years of her five-year mandate. Aides say she will wait until she can study Conservative results in local government elections on Thursday.

Leading politicians contributed to the speculation Saturday with punchy speeches that smacked strongly of electioneering.

Labour opposition spokesman claimed Mrs. Thatcher was planning a "cul-de-sac" June election to secure a new mandate before her hopes of economic recovery went sour.

For the Conservatives, party chairman Cecil Parkinson called the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance "a collection of nobodies" unable to run a credible operation, let alone a government.

Thawra added: "Reagan's plan abolishes the right of the Palestinian people to have their own homeland and to be represented by an independent Palestinian state," it said.

Last September's Arab summit in Morocco, which called for an independent Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, had recognised the PLO's role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it noted.

"It was clear from Reagan's statement on his secretary's tour that the current U.S. stance is to underestimate resolutions taken by the whole Arab Nation and neglect those whom it selected as representatives for their causes," the newspaper said.

"Reagan's statement that the PLO does not deserve the right to represent the Palestinians is a distortion of facts and an open denial of the right of the Palestinian people to express themselves," Al-Thawra said in an editorial.

It described U.S. efforts to secure the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon as "nothing but a manoeuvre to blackmail the Arabs and transform the Leb-

PLO issues films of prisoners

DAMASCUS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday handed over film of two Israeli prisoners who have not been seen by outsiders since they were captured in Lebanon last September, a senior PLO official said. Deputy Commander of PLQ forces Khalil Al Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, told reporters the film was given to Austrian envoy Herbert Amry to show the prisoners' families that the detainees were in good health. The PLO says the two are in the hands of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-general command, one of the most radical of the guerrilla groups under the PLO umbrella.



Iran frees 32 crippled Iraqi POWs through the Red Cross

ANKARA (R) — Iran Saturday flew 32 crippled Iraqi prisoners of war to Ankara airport and Saturday night they were flying home, after the Red Cross supervised the first Gulf war handover of its kind in Turkey.

The handover process took almost four hours. Police and soldiers kept reporters away from a tent where the prisoners were held, at the end of a runway, farthest from the airport buildings.

An Iranian plane which brought

(Continued on page 3)

Beirut talks make progress

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held nine-hour talks Saturday with Lebanese leaders in which Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan said progress was made towards an agreement on withdrawing Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz, who had arrived from Israeli-occupied Jerusalem Saturday morning, delayed his return to Israel as the talks stretched on into the evening.

When they broke up for the night, Mr. Wazzan said: "We achieved some progress. We reviewed with the American side all points that should be included in the expected agreement."

He said Sunday they would clear up some points in the Lebanon position on a pull-out.

Lebanese government sources said the meeting would be brief and Mr. Shultz would then return to Jerusalem for further talks with

Israeli officials.

Mr. Wazzan said Mr. Shultz would be taking "the final Lebanese position" to the Israelis. He would have to come back to Lebanon before agreement was reached.

"We hope the return will be final," he said.

Referring to a marathon 35-day peace shuttle in 1974 between Syria and Israel by then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Mr. Wazzan said: "God willing, this will not be a shuttle like Kissinger's."

The talks, which had been scheduled to end in mid-afternoon, went on into the evening and a U.S. embassy spokesman said they would continue overnight if necessary.

Officials from both sides said they were working through a draft withdrawal agreement article by article, stopping to discuss and clarify points of disagreement.

Mr. Shultz, on his first visit to the Middle East, has indicated he is willing to stay as long as it takes to secure withdrawal of 30,000 Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Colombo in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo conferred Saturday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, Italian embassy officials said.

The talks centred on the European Community's attitude to the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Italo-Iraqi economic and industrial cooperation, they added.

Later Saturday Mr. Colombo was seeing Industry and Mineral Resources Minister Subhi Yassin Khader.

Colombo arrived Saturday night to start a three-nation tour also taking him to Syria and Kuwait.

Oil slick, war on agenda during talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Bahrain's prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, arrived Saturday on an official visit for talks on the Iraq-Iran War and the Gulf oil slick, the official Kuwait news agency reported.

Sheikh Khalifa's talks with Kuwaiti Prime

FEATURES

Fur trade revives after 2 years of recession

By Tony Carratt
Reuter

FRANKFURT. West Germany — Fur is back in fashion, and the world's furriers say business is picking up after two lean years in which sales have been hit by economic recession and vociferous opposition from anti-fur campaigners.

Traders at Frankfurt's 35th international fur fair, which ended at the weekend, said orders are on the increase.

And many believe the fur-buying public is becoming less influenced by harrowing television footage of hunters clubbing seal pups to death.

The fair, which draws traders to the acknowledged centre of the world fur business for their largest annual gathering, attracted a record 556 exhibitors from 30 countries this year.

Some do as much as a third of their total business for the year at the five-day event, a specialists' marketplace which is closed to the general public.

Little at the fair indicated that the industry is only just dragging itself out of recession. Eager buyers had to queue outside the major designers' mini-theatres as troupes of models paraded the latest in fur fashion to packed audience.

But last year imports to West Germany, where many of the world's raw skins are sent to be made into coats, hats, stoles and other items, fell 21 per cent to 1.88 billion marks (£760 million) compared with the 1981 level.

Exports of raw and finished goods were down 17.5 per cent to just over 980 million marks (£400 million).

For some traders, however, the fair has shown that weaker results

are already a thing of the past.

"We never thought it would go so well. We've done 20 per cent more business than at last year's fair," said one West German wholesaler.

According to a computer poll commissioned at the fair by a Scandinavian fur company, 84 per cent of those taking part said they are optimistic that business will pick up over the rest of the year as people buy the mink coat or fox stole they had to do without in leaner times.

Their confidence is supported by the West German Fur Industry Association, which says imports rose by 15 per cent and exports by almost 20 per cent between December and February compared with the same months a year before.

Many dealers also believe people are beginning to suffer fewer

pangs of conscience about buying fur.

Wide media coverage of the annual cull of baby seals on the Newfoundland coast in recent years raised a storm of protest from animal lovers and environmentalists.

It turned the subject into a hot political issue which culminated in February in a European Community "gentlemen's agreement" to ban imports of the seals' white pelts.

Traders say television and magazine pictures of snow streaked with baby seals' blood shattered demand for all types of seal skins, regardless of what age the seals were, where they were caught and how they were killed.

Klaus-Peter Schlimm, the manager of a large Hamburg wholesale house which specializes in seal furs, says sales fell 90 per cent,

forcing the firm to diversify its range of pelts.

Traders believe publicity given to the seal cull also made some prospective buyers shy away from other types of furs.

"Some women just said: 'I'm not buying fur anymore, no matter what it comes from,'" according to Louis Zeifman, a dealer from Toronto.

But with projects such as a film showing continuously at the fair, aimed at dispelling concern that the fur trade is cruel and unnatural, the industry is starting to seriously combat the anti-fur movement, furriers say.

Many are cautiously confident that the influence of what some call the "anti-propaganda" of environmental organisations is now on the wane.

"The public is beginning to realize other animals are killed every day in slaughterhouses too," says

Peter Pohl, a wholesale trader based in Frankfurt. "The anti-movement is over the hill."

The apparent change in thinking was underlined by a recent cover story in West Germany's news magazine *Der Spiegel*.

Often sympathetic to environmentalist causes, the magazine surprised many in the fur trade by adding its voice to those who say the Newfoundland cull is vital for preserving fish stocks and emphasising how much some Greenland Eskimos depend on seal hunting for survival.

Ole Gubé, an official of the Royal Greenland Trade Department, was at the fair to put across the same message.

"We're gradually winning the propaganda war, but it will take a couple of years. Maybe even three," he said.

'Miracle' spring draws thousands of Germans

By Colin Narbrough
Reuter

litre (about one gallon) plastic flas-

on of water costs 10 marks (\$4). But they also say the improvements they have been forced to make around the spring have cost two million marks (\$800,000).

The peace of the remote wine-growing area has given way to a steady stream of cars and visitors who churn up the red soil as they hike the last few hundred metres (yards) through the fields to the spring.

Peter Brauch, the deputy chairman of the local council, said: "If it had been up to me there wouldn't have been any of this."

He said the police had demanded that parking space and road access should be improved in the interest of public safety and that proper standards of hygiene should be assured.

"When it all started, people were queuing 10 to 12 hours for the water. There were fights and the place was littered with rubbish," he said.

The increase in the numbers of visitors looks like levelling off after the hectic growth during the first weeks.

Foreign workers, especially Turks, form a large part of the water-seekers at the Roman Catholic shrine.

A Turkish factory worker, Kemal Oginoglu, said he had driven 140 kilometres to fetch dozens of water containers for his family and friends.

A smartly dressed German woman in her early forties said she sought a cure for a serious illness.

"I'm sceptical about what the water can do, but when you're desperate you grasp at the slenderest hopes," she said.

No satanic myth at E. Germany's Wartberg Castle

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

EISENACH. East Germany — Most of the one million visitors expected at the Wartburg Castle this year will look for the stain where Martin Luther, founder of the reformation, is said to have thrown a pot of ink at the devil.

None will find it.

Historians believe the myth began 150 years after the death of Luther from his statement that while at Wartburg he had "flouted the devil with ink."

Even East German Head of

State Erich Honecker asked about the stain as he toured the castle last week when it reopened following extensive restoration.

On May 4, East Germany's dominant Evangelical (Protestant) Church will start its celebration of this year's 500th anniversary of Luther's birth with a ceremony and an ecumenical service in the castle chapel.

While at the castle Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German, a work not only important in the reformation, because it enabled many people to read the scripture for the first time, but a major influence on the German language.

The room where he worked is one of many now open at the castle following a nine million mark

restoration by Communist East Germany, a cost it hopes partly to cover by attracting overseas visitors.

The sober room, sparsely furnished, is said to show the simple, lonely surroundings in which Luther spent a year with his books.

The castle itself towers 400 metres (1,300 feet) on a rocky plateau over the picturesque town of Eisenach, birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Founded, according to legend, in 1067 by Count Ludwig, it has been linked with many phases of German history.

Wagner came here in 1842 and

made a medieval singing battle between minstrels at the castle the backdrop to his "Tannhaeuser."

It was the home of local counts and the great German writer Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe stayed here many times.

More prosaically, the castle has given its name to the Wartburg car, one of East Germany's best-known exports, which is made in an Eisenach factory.

The rambling edifice, extended many times since its foundation, has undergone two previous restorations, the latest continuing piecemeal since soon after World War II.

Walls have been damp-proofed, balconies preserved and beams exposed as they originally were.

Cellar rooms of the palace, the main castle building, were being opened for the first time.

Much of the castle is not, however, as Luther knew it, rooms having been added and reduced in the 1800s.

The magnificent main room of the palace dates from about 1190 but its decoration, with newly-conserved wood panelled ceiling, gilt designs and Latin inscriptions, dates from the 19th century.

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VIEW FROM AMERICA

By Franz Schurmann

Reagan's re-election depends on arms agreement

Americans have never been much interested in foreign affairs—unless there was a threat of American soldiers becoming involved in some foreign war. Yet as of early April one can validly say that most Americans are quite interested in one major issue of foreign affairs—whether there will be an arms accord or not with the Soviet Union.

Americans, right across class, race, and age lines have become afraid of the arms race. Young people in America who normally are totally disinterested in politics have become passionate on the subject

of nuclear war. In fact, a poll some months ago indicated most young people were optimistic about the state of the economy, but felt the chances were good they would be killed in a nuclear war.

The reasons for this concern are not easy to discover, but they seem to have much to do with the fact that people increasingly perceive their own government as weak and unreliable. And, as to the Soviets, few Americans have trust in them, even if anti-Communism has lost its bite in most Americans. In short, people are afraid that a war that could des-

troy the planet could erupt from the ineptitude of the leaders of countries which have nuclear weapons.

Ronald Reagan and the Republicans know how deep this fear of nuclear war is, and if he wants to run for president again in 1984, he will have to come up with an arms agreement. But by temperament he would rather run in a big arms race with the Soviets and build up U.S. armed forces to a new level of strength which could scare the Soviets and probably bring their economy to the breaking point under the strain of an even bigger arm-

ament programme. It is this double-edged attitude on the part of Reagan that explains some of the tricky moves he has made on arms accords. On March 30, Reagan offered a compromise proposal on the issue of deploying new U.S. missiles in Western Europe. But at the same time, he made it clear the U.S. would not accept that the Soviets moved their SS-20 missiles behind the Urals into Asia. And he indicated that any arms accord would have to be acceptable not just to the people of Europe but of Asia.

Clearly, he meant by this

primarily two nations: Japan and China. The new Japanese government of Prime Minister Nakasone has already made it clear publicly that Japan would not tolerate such a Soviet move. But the country the Soviets have already targeted with SS-20 missiles, China, has said nothing. Does that mean the Chinese do not care? Far from it. The Chinese not only care, but are playing a key role behind the scenes in a diplomacy that could have direct effect not just on the arms accords but on the political situation in the Middle East.

Ever since the Sino-Soviet

dispute began in the early 1960's, they have levelled one main accusation against the Soviets: That they interfere gravely in the internal affairs of countries on their borders. Most people do not realize that the Soviets, from the moment of Chinese Communist victory in 1949, were deeply involved in internal Chinese politics, strengthening pro-Soviet factions in the Chinese Communist Party. Many of the bloody political struggles fought out in China involved attempts by Mao Tse-Tung to get rid of those whom he perceived as under Soviet influence or control.

Kreisky's achievements

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who resigned on Sunday after 13 years at the helm, will be sorely missed—not just in Austria, but on the international stage.

His balanced understanding of the world's affairs and its problems found acceptance both in the East and the West and gave Austria a far more important and respected voice than it normally would have warranted. He actively pursued the idea of positive "neutrality," taking great interest in, and campaigning for, increased understanding between East and West and between North and South.

Undoubtedly his most important and lasting achievement was over the Middle East.

He may not have been the first Western politician to realize that the region's problems were not going to be settled without talking to the Palestinians, but he was the first to do something about it. Under him, Austria was the first Western country to recognize and talk to the PLO, and later the first to accord its representatives full diplomatic status.

What made his achievement that much greater and more striking was the fact that he is a Jew, albeit a non-practising one. By talking and listening to the Palestinians and campaigning for their rights, he was able to show the world that Jewishness and Zionism do not go hand in hand.

He did not always agree with the PLO, but that was never a reason for not talking to them. Direct contact and exchange of ideas, he believed, is the only civilised means of international behaviour. He was even willing to invite Libya's Col. Qaddafi to Vienna last year for talks, in the hope that talking to him might have a taming effect. It was a vain hope as it turned out, but even then it had one positive result; he was able to mediate on behalf of his friend, Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, and it resulted in a marked improvement in relations between Malta and Libya.

But just as he was willing to talk to anyone in the interests of peace, no one—for the same reasons—was beyond attack. He infuriated President Reagan last year with his criticism of American sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union after the imposition of martial law in Poland. That little rift was only healed this year.

Officially the reason for his resignation is the poor showing of his Socialist Party in Austria's general election last Sunday. Certainly their 3 per cent drop nationally—4 per cent in Vienna which has traditionally been "red"—was a major blow to Kreisky. With predictable integrity and honesty, his immediate reaction was to quit. "I draw the consequences and am stepping down."

Would other politicians have such integrity?

—Arab News, Jeddah

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS**Al Ra'i:** Unified stand helps Lebanon

The French support for the Lebanese negotiator, as voiced by French Minister for External Affairs Claude Cheysson, reflects the French government's concern over the pressure exerted by the U.S. administration on Lebanon to accept terms that violate Lebanese sovereignty. The French minister's hints regarding an active role in the region to be expected in the near future also reflect a French desire to warn the Americans that unless the current tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz accomplishes peace for the Lebanese people, the Soviet return to Mideastern politics is inevitable.

The French side seem deeply concerned to prove their credibility regarding the Middle East conflict, but this would be of greater consequence if such an attitude is adopted by the European Community to counterbalance U.S. failure to play a balanced active role, in both Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A unified Arab stand towards the American role in the negotiations on Lebanon will help the Lebanese leadership stick to an uncompromising stand to preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Al Dustour: How serious is the U.S.?

Against a background of plentiful statements related to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on his administration's adherence to its previous stand regarding the freezing of Israeli settlement building, Israel made a new gesture in this concern that suggests a lot. The Israeli authorities could not wait until the American minister would leave its capital but chose to announce in a report presented by the Israeli minister of housing that the ministerial committee for settlement had approved the building of twenty new settlements in the West Bank. To reaffirm Israel's anti-peace stand, Menachem Begin reiterated past statements rejecting any consideration of President Reagan's initiative.

It is time to wonder if the U.S. could be, by any means, serious in defending its reputation. The recent Israeli announcements express a long-standing attitude rejecting every peace sign, whether American or otherwise, that does not serve Israel's expansionist and hegemonic trends.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. formula not effective

The compromise U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is attempting to reach on Lebanon's problem, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, seems to have no other purpose but persuading the Arabs that the only possible peace under American auspices is the one that guarantees Israeli conditions and fulfills its plans.

The talk of freezing the building of new settlements in the occupied West Bank while allowing the Israeli to increase the number of settlers in the now-existing settlements is nothing but a hide-and-seek game that changes nothing in the nature of things. The Israeli settlement plan aims at changing the demographic balance in the occupied territories in favour of Zionist annexationist schemes.

Shultz's current effort and the formula he is presenting to solve the Lebanon's problem do not promise much with regard to the occupied Palestinian territories which according to the Israelis are liberated land of Israel. Peace is a comprehensive issue, and unless a durable and just solution is reached, all temporary tranquillizers will prove devastating instead of curative.

**Cordoba's mayor hoped to help Spain's Communists recover**

By Brian Mooney
Reuters

CORDOBA, Spain — Known to fellow citizens as the Red Caliph of Cordoba, the Communist mayor of this once Moorish capital is hoping to be the one who starts his party on the road to recovery in this month's national municipal elections.

Julio Anguita Gonzalez, the only Communist mayor of a Spanish provincial capital, is one of a handful of prominent local figures upon whom Spain's Communist Party (PCE) is banking to prove that it is still a force to be reckoned with.

The party, weakened by internal splits and unsure of the way ahead in the search for a viable Eurocommunist strategy of independence from Moscow, is hoping to demonstrate that its disastrous performance in last Octo-

ber's general election was the end and not the beginning of a trend.

The election left the Communists with only four of the 23 seats they previously held in congress, the lower house of the Cortes (parliament).

"I know that I am a symbol for the party," Anguita said in an interview. "It's a cross I have to carry."

Anguita, 41, a history professor, is pulling out all the stops in May 8 and the PCE is sending extra funds for the campaign.

Cordoba has been flooded with copies of a book containing Anguita's speeches and articles since he became mayor four years ago in the first democratic municipal polls in Spain after the death of Dictator Francisco Franco.

The book records Anguita's achievements and struggles that

included tiffs with the army and the Roman Catholic Church.

Anguita became mayor as a result of a nationwide pact after the 1979 agreement between the Socialist Party (PSOE) and the PCE providing for coalitions where neither had a majority.

The pact gave 70 per cent of Spain's then 37 million people their first experience of left-wing government since before the 1936-39 civil war.

Cordoba was the only provincial capital in which the Communists won more council seats than their opponents and presided over an all-party coalition of the PSOE, the Andalusian Socialists and the now-extinct Union of the Democratic Centre Party (UCD).

Under strains of local and national politics, the all-party coalition gradually fell apart.

Anguita was eventually left with

a minority government of fellow Communists and Andalusian Socialists who are now fighting the resurgent PSOE for survival.

The UCD pulled out in January 1981 after Anguita's much publicised exchanges with the local bishop over a decision to hand a mosque that had become the Christian church of Santa Clara back to Muslims. Anguita told him not to meddle in politics.

Once, at a civic reception, he told one of Spain's more reactionary generals, Manuel Saavedra Palmeiro, that the military should be influenced by civilian virtue of reasoning and thinking.

He publicly reminded the military of its subordination to civilian rule amid stirrings of unrest in the armed forces in 1979. "I have always spoken my mind," Anguita said.

After the PSOE withdrew from

the council in October 1981, Anguita embarked on his most ambitious projects of restoration and conservation to reconcile the needs of modern Cordoba to the grandeur of its Moorish past.

One big project, to eliminate a huge railway complex around the main station and turn the land reclaimed into recreation and living space, is an issue in the forthcoming election.

Anguita's opponents accuse him of refusing to carry out because it was drawn up by the previous right-wing city council. The mayor rejects the charges and says that his own scheme for the area will provide more green space than the previous plan.

The conservative Popular Alliance (AP) candidate is Rafael Molina Requena, 50, who is also Cordoba's property registrar and a wine producer. He hopes his election will pick up the votes of the disbanded UCD in its first sortie into local politics.

The Socialist candidate, Joaquin Martinez Bjorkman, 55, was a prominent opposition lawyer in Cordoba during the Franco dictatorship and is now a senator in Madrid. He reckons it will be tough to dislodge the Communists because of Anguita's personal following in the city.

Anguita, on the other hand, acknowledges that the tide in Spain is running strongly in favour of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's party.

The PSOE won 91,671 votes in Cordoba in the general election. The AP took 41,311 and the Communists 13,280. On that basis Anguita is going to need a very strong vote to keep his medallion of Lenin on the shelf in the mayor's office.

*An apparent lack of belief that a political solution is possible***Reagan's aid to Salvador seen as signal to keep fighting**

By Jose Katigbak
Reuters

SAN SALVADOR — President Reagan's call for U.S. aid to prop up Central American's against leftist forces is being seen by both sides in the war-torn region as a signal to carry on fighting.

Initial reaction from leaders of the U.S.-backed government in Salvador and the leftist rulers of Nicaragua appeared to underline their apparent lack of belief that a political solution is possible. In his attempt to win Congressional approval for a big increase in military aid to El Salvador, Reagan painted a black-and-white picture of a country threatened by forces loyal to "the most aggressive empire the world has seen."

Nicaraguan leaders quickly expressed confidence that more aid would turn the military tide in their favour after a string of setbacks in the 24,000-strong army's war against left-wing guerrillas grouped in the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

At a press conference Thursday, neither President Alvaro Magana nor his newly-appointed Defence Minister, Eugenio Vides Casanova, mentioned the possibility of a negotiated solution to

a civil war which has so far killed some 40,000 people.

The Nicaraguans dismissed as baseless Reagan's charges that they had turned violence and Communism-inspired revolution into their country's most important export.

Earlier, Reagan made his rare address to both houses of Congress. Nicaragua's Sandinista government put its troops along the frontier with Honduras on maximum alert. It broadcast warnings that the U.S. was preparing fresh attacks on Nicaragua.

Thousands of people poured into the streets of Managua in response to calls to protest against the speech in which Reagan charged Nicaragua was spearheading a Communist threat to undermine Central America "from the Panama canal to the Mexican border."

Polarisation

Nicaragua, fighting 2,000 right-wing exiles bent on toppling the Managua government, has accused the U.S. of masterminding the infiltration from Honduras. It says, up to 4,000 more rebels are poised to attack from Honduras and Costa Rica. "There has been little talk about political solutions since the Rea-

gan speech," said a European diplomat in Central America. "The polarisation of the region is likely to continue, if not deepen."

El Salvador's most prominent right-wing leader, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, said that while the

country's future had been in doubt before the president's address, "now it is clear we will overcome our problem."

Maj. D'Aubuisson and other leaders spoke of the future in military terms and President Alvaro

Magana recalled the capture of the city of Berlin — a major psychological boost of the rebels — for the future of Central America.

The right-wing infiltration has brought Honduras and Nicaragua to the brink of war and spurred a fresh initiative — the 19th in the past three years — to bring peace to the region.

In Mexico's Caribbean seaside resort of Cancun, the head of Brazil's Embraer Aircraft Company told Reuters Thursday his firm was negotiating to sell ten military aircraft to Honduras in a deal worth at least \$15 million.

According to the independent London-based Institute of Strategic Studies, Honduras already has the most powerful air force in Central America, both in terms of numbers and quality.

Embraer Chief Ozires Silva said his firm was hoping to sell Honduras two maritime patrol aircraft and eight military training planes which could double as tactical support aircraft, carrying up to 1,100 kg of armament and missiles.

Silva's disclosure followed a Brazilian government's seizure last week of four Libyan aircraft bound for Nicaragua with a consignment of arms listed as medical supplies.



Arab League: Strength from shared aims

On 22 March 1945, delegates from seven Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic) signed the Pact of the League of Arab States, the organisation now often referred to as the "Arab League". Today, 38 years later, the League has 22 member states, covering an area totalling about 13 million square kilometres, spreading from the Atlantic in the west to the Arabian Gulf in the east and with a combined population of nearly 165 million.

The League was set up in response to Arab aspiration for unity and independence from colonial rule. The pan-Arab national movement, which began in the late 19th century, gathered momentum in the early 1940s. Most Arab states were then suffering from either foreign rule or domination; for example, the British in Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, South Yemen and the Gulf; the French in Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco; and the Italians in Libya.

It was just a year before World War II came to a close that pan-Arab plans aiming to establish some kind of a unified Arab front began. Delegates from the seven

original members of the League met in late 1944 in Alexandria for two weeks of talks, and on 7 October in that year, signed the Alexandria Protocol which provided the basis for the setting up of the League about six months later.

Independence movements

From its formation and up to the end of 1971, the League played an important role in promoting Arab independence movements. It was during these 16 years that 17 Arab countries gained independence from colonial powers: for instance, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan in 1946; Libya in 1952; Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan in 1956; Somalia in 1960; Kuwait and Mauritania in 1961; Algeria in 1962; South Yemen in 1967 and the Gulf states in 1970-71.

Only three years after its establishment, the League encountered its greatest and most absorbing challenge: Israel was forcibly implanted on Palestinian land. Individual Arab states at the time lacked the means to confront the Israeli aggression, which meant that the League became the plank of that confrontation. It was five years after its formation that the

League began to realise the importance of regional economic co-operation. In the following 30 years, about 20 specialised agencies were set up. These cover activities ranging from mining to monetary co-operation, broadcasting, industrial and agricultural development.

One of the League's important institutions is the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). Now based in Amman, it was formed in 1957, and began operation in 1964. The CEAU tries to integrate Arab development planning, industrial and agricultural policies and encourages co-operation in marketing of Arab products both within the Arab region and abroad.

The League also plays an important part in promoting economic and commercial links between Arab countries and the world's leading trading and industrial nations. It was, for example, on the League's initiative (in 1970) that several joint chambers of commerce were set up in many of these countries in the past 10 years. There are now eight such chambers in West Europe, including the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, six in East Europe and three in the United States.

Co-operation among these chambers now includes organising international conferences on issues concerning Arab economic links with industrial nations. One such conference, organised by the joint chamber in West Europe and entitled Euro-Arab Co-operation: Arab Production, Exports, Investment and Europe, is to be held in Brussels on 20-22 April 1983 and is expected to be addressed by the League's Secretary General.

Flexible structure

The League's structure is flexible and resembles those of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Organisation of American States (OAS) rather than that of the European Economic Community (EEC). One major difference between the League and these organisations, however, is that all its member countries share the same language and culture as well as forming an uninterrupted geographical region. The League, which is committed to the respect of sovereignty and independence of member states, aims to strengthen Arab solidarity and provides a platform for members to discuss common strategy concerning pan-Arab interests, whether political, military, economic, cultural or social.

The League's supreme authority is the League Council which plans, controls and co-ordinates the organisation's activities and appoints the League's Secretary-General. The Council, which normally meets every March and September, can be called for an extraordinary session at the request of at least two member states. The League's Economic & Social Council aims to promote economic and social co-operation between Arab states. A joint Defence Council, consisting of foreign and defence ministers of all member states, has been set up to decide



Secretary-General Mr. Chadi Klibi

ide on matters concerning regional security.

At each General Session of the League Council, specialised ministerial committees (such as those of foreign, social and economic affairs) are set up. The lifetime of these committees is linked to the duration of the Session. Ad hoc committees are sometimes set up to carry out specific tasks. There are also permanent committees (such as those of political affairs, health, information, administration and financial affairs), which play a crucial part in the working of the League. They study matters related to their spheres and submit their findings to the League Council for approval.

The League's executive authority is the General Secretariat.

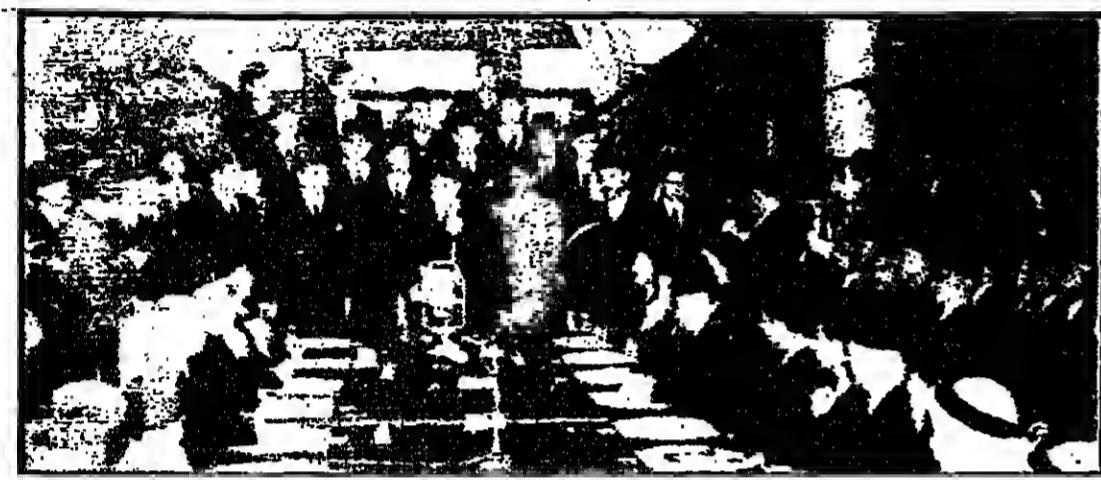
It is responsible for carrying out the League Council's resolutions and is headed by a secretary-general who is elected by a majority of at least two thirds of the

member countries, although in practice he has always been appointed unanimously.

The present secretary-general, Mr. Chadi Klibi, who took office in June 1979 soon after the League's headquarters was moved from Cairo to Tunis, now has four assistants (Dr. Abdel-Hassan Zalala, Economic & Administrative Affairs; Mr. Assad Al Assaad, Social Affairs; Mr. Mohammad Ben Shama, Legal Affairs and Mr. Adnan Omran, Political Affairs).

Whenever the need arises for Arab heads of state to meet, an Arab summit is held. Such summits are normally convened when there is an urgent problem to be resolved. Thirteen summits have so far been held, the first in Cairo in September 1982. Other summits have been held in Rabat, Algiers, Khartoum, Baghdad and Tunis.

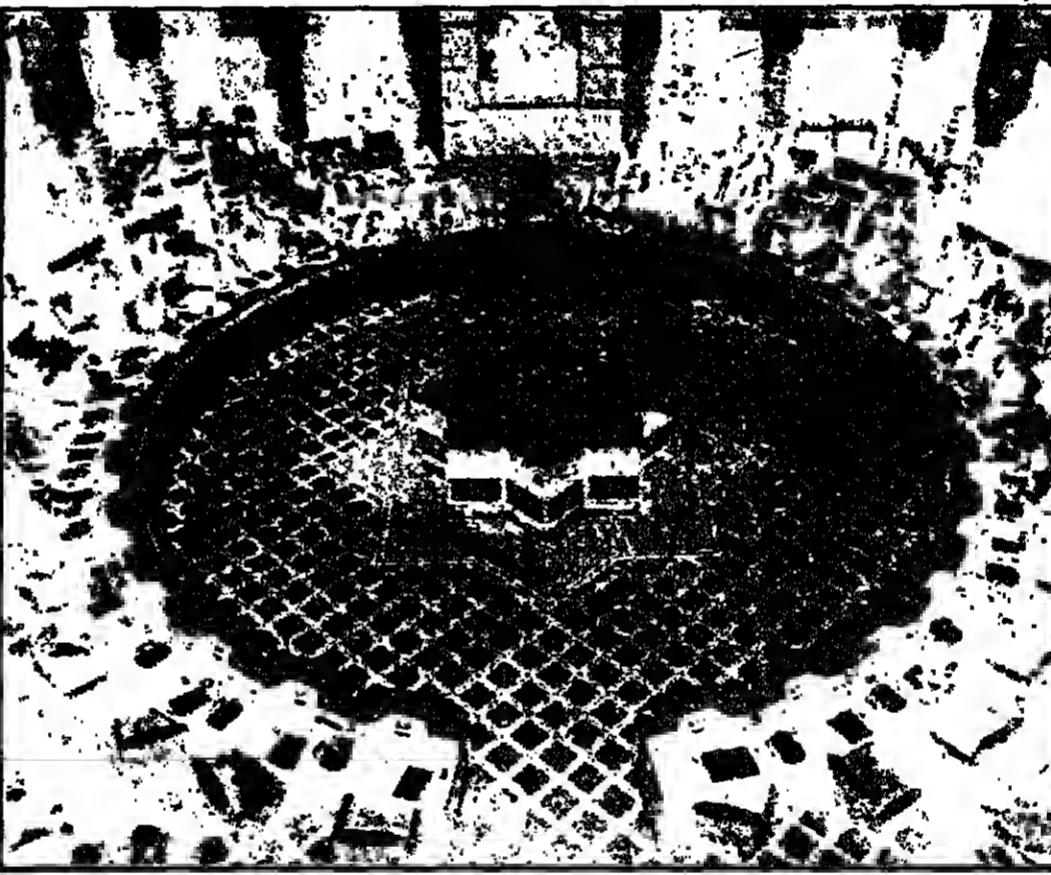
- Arab-British Commerce



Delegates of the seven original member states announce birth of League in Cairo, 1945



Heads of state attending the first Arab summit in Cairo in 1964



The 13th summit in Fez last September where the Arab peace plan was drawn up

Saudi Arabia's desert capital sheds its veil

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's austere desert capital, Riyadh, is shedding its veil.

The city has its clutter of drab concrete and on the new Mecca road the date palms that gave it its name — Al-Riyadh means the gardens — are dying, since the engineers cut through centuries-old irrigation ditches.

Bidding for a place among the great cities of the Arab Middle East, it is adorned with several acknowledged splendours of present-day architecture that reflect the political and financial power being concentrated here.

Some \$3 billion is being spent on the new King Khaled international airport. After it opens in July, foreign airlines now restricted to Jeddah and Dhahran hope to operate through the capital for the first time.

By 1985 the foreign ministry expects to move to Riyadh from Jeddah, followed by foreign embassies to be located in a new diplomatic enclave.

The tale is told by long-time expatriates in Saudi Arabia of a party held in Jeddah around 1950 to celebrate the arrival of the first electric fan.

Some 25 Americans and Britons who attended were apparently the total resident Western population of the kingdom away from the Gulf coast oil enclave of Dharan.

None of those at the party had ever been to Riyadh.

Protective of tradition and an austere Islamic faith, the Saudis were content to keep the non-Muslims across the desert at Jeddah. On the Red Sea, which has a long history of commerce and exposure to foreign influence.

However, the decision to develop Riyadh as the modern royal capital, accelerated after the 1973 oil price boom, wrought a gradual change in the Saudi attitude.

Western consultants, architects and engineers were needed. They supervised an army of mainly Muslim unskilled and semi-skilled labour from Yemen, Pakistan and elsewhere.

When the diplomats arrive, they will find perhaps nearly half the inhabitants are non-Saudi, among them some 50,000 Westerners, diplomatic sources said.

A banking community is already established.

Saudis have hitherto generally lacked technical skills and are not fond of manual work, so they hired foreign help to create their new city.

"We either stood still or we imported labour. After all, who built the United States?" asked Deputy Minister of Planning Hussein Sagini.

Statistics on how many tens of billions of riyals have been lavished on Riyadh are not readily available and officials said the mayor was too busy to be interviewed. But it is evident that among architects and builders the Saudis could afford the best.

The city has its clutter of drab concrete and on the new Mecca road the date palms that gave it its name — Al-Riyadh means the gardens — are dying, since the engineers cut through centuries-old irrigation ditches.

But the new government ministries and corporate headquarters rising above the skyline and the princely palaces that sit discreetly in the suburbs reflect the solid elegance and fine taste of only the very rich.

Marble is much used. Pale green and sometimes rust red roof tiles add subdued colouring. Arabian arches lend grace. Trees and flowering shrubs replace the lost palms.

Seeking to dramatise the austere piety of the murdered monarch, the King Faisal building, housing a mosque and Islamic research centre, presents a towering facade of two gleaming and pure white monoliths that represent the hands at prayer.

At least for the foreigner, Riyadh retains some mystery.

Saudi Riyadhis are courteous but aloof, their homes seldom open to the non-Saudi guest and their womenfolk secluded and veiled.

Away from the souks there is no such thing as crowded and bustling pavements in Riyadh. People quickly cross from air-conditioned off-ice block, boutique, supermarket or videocassette store.

"What do we do here? We work, eat, sleep and earn money," an immigrant Pakistani said.

Religious-inspired restrictions link Westerners. There are no cinemas, alcohol is banned and women do not get driving licences. In the souk, religious police bave caused the injudiciously exposed ankles of Western women.

Yet to the Saudis the alien influx, although judged necessary, may appear to threaten strongly-held values. They say some of them may occasionally relish the night life of London or Bangkok but would bate to see bars and casinos in Riyadh.

The west's permissive ways are held to have dishonoured family life.

The building boom, though said to be winding down, meanwhile goes frantically on. A city mosque will accommodate 100,000 and there will be 20,000 undergraduates at the new King Saud University.

The hotel guest is awakened early by the pounding of mechanical diggers. Save at prayer times when all Riyadh is hushed and shuttered, there is no respite until late at night.

Saudi author Ragaei El-Mallakh, asking to be excused the pun, suggests that the crane should be the Saudi national bird.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE 630, 720, 1413 kHz.
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Ramzan and Cuypers 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Parade 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Parade 08:30 Counterpart 09:00 World News 09:30 News about Brazil 09:45 From Our Own Correspondent 09:50 Saudi and Company 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:15 British Press Review 11:15 People and Politics 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Broadcast 14:00 Domes 15:00 World News 15:05 Good Books 15:30 Short Story 15:45 The Tony Myatt Request Show 16:30 Electro Mania Lives 17:00 Radio Newsreel 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 From Our Own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:45 Verdict 20:00 World News 20:45 Special Report 20:50 Newsdesk 21:00 News about Britain 21:15 The Pleasure's Yours 21:30 Parade 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 Love and Mr. Lewisham 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:05 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sporecall 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Strictly Instrumental 01:45 Concert Hour 01:55 News Summary 02:00 Early News Bulletin 02:15 Morning Show 02:30 News Summary 02:45 News Summary 02:55 News Summary 03:00 Pop Session 03:15 News Summary 03:30 Catch the Words 03:45 News Bulletin 03:55 Instruments 04:05 Science Report 04:15 Concert Hour 04:30 News Summary 04:45 Instrumental Old Favourites 04:55 Letters' Choice 05:00 News Summary 05:15 Jazz Hour 05:30 Newsdesk 05:45 Date with a Star 05:55 Evening Show 06:00 News Summary 06:15 News Summary 06:30 Special English 06:45 Special English Feature: People in America 18:30 Music USA 19:45 News and New Products 19:55 Studio One 20:00 Special English 20:15 News and Their Stories, feature "People in America" 20:30 Music USA (Standards) 21:00 News and Topical Reports 21:15 New Horizon 21:30 Issues in the News

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06:15 Today's Headlines	17:15 News
06:30 News Bulletin	17:30 News
06:45 News Summary	17:45 News
07:00 News Summary	18:00 News
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SPORTS

World Cup star's day of misery

Liverpool clinches League title

LONDON (R) — World Cup defender Steve Foster will forever look back in anguish on Brighton's English first division soccer match at Notts County on Saturday.

The rugged centre-half saw his club slip another notch nearer relegation and, just to reinforce the feeling he should have stayed in bed Saturday morning, Foster picked up a first-half caution which is likely to keep him out of the F.A. Cup final.

Foster was booked for dissent in a bruising 1-0 defeat—a result which will almost certainly send Brighton to the second division—and he has now passed the 30-disciplinary point mark which brings automatic suspension next month.

Intricately, if Foster had been sent off in the second half—and did his level best on a number of occasions—the suspension would have started immediately and he would have been free to play against Manchester United in the Cup final at Wembley on May 21.

Liverpool, who went to the top of the table in October last year, finally clinched the championship for the sixth time in eight seasons.

But Liverpool did not achieve

this latest success in their usual champagne style. They went down 2-0 at Tottenham but Manchester United, the only club with a remote chance of catching them, drew 1-1 at Norwich.

Swansea and Manchester City look like being Brighton's travelling companions into Division Two.

The Welsh club, sixth in the first division last season, drew 1-1 at home with Ipswich but they are still anchored firmly at the foot with 38 points, one less than Brighton, with just three games to play.

Wilson, however, remained: unimpressed and the 'hapless' Foster remained on the pitch.

Manchester City, beaten 2-1 at home by Nottingham Forest, lie fourth bottom on the 44-point mark but they are only one point ahead of fast-improving Birmingham, 2-1 winners at Sunderland, who have a game in hand.

With Queen's Park Rangers assured of a first division berth next season, and Wolverhampton poised to join them, the battle is hotting up for the third promotion place.

They went to the top on October 30 last year and even then sages could be heard to mutter: "Who's going to be second?"

The answer is either Watford or Manchester United. Watford beat Arsenal 2-1 at home to move three points clear of United but

Wednesday while Leicester were held to a goalless draw at home by Bolton.

Foster, who realises his Wembley opportunity was slipping away, began the second half by deliberately handing the ball, an offence which usually guarantees a player a caution.

When referee Norman Wilson ignored the offence, Foster then turned his attention to County striker Trevor Christie, who was twice sent spinning to the ground by heavy tackles.

Celtic were also among the goals at lowly Kilmarnock where Danny McGrain and Murdo MacLeod gave them a 2-0 half-time lead. Celtic took the tally to five with an exhilarating attacking display after the interval.

Aberdeen, who meet Real Madrid in the European Cup-Winners' Cup final in Gothenburg on May 11, moved onto the 50-point mark, one behind Celtic, with a 2-0 win at Dundee.

John Hewitt and World Cup mid-fielder Gordon Strachan scored the goals in the first 10 minutes for Aberdeen, who have a game in hand over their two rivals.

They announced an even stronger team for Copenhagen.

the F.A. Cup finalists have the cushion of two games in hand.

In contrast to Liverpool's runaway success, the Scottish Premier League Championship is poised for a glorious climax with three clubs separated by only two points.

Leaders Dundee United gave 4,000 supporters free tickets for their game against Morton at Greenock and their generosity paid off with a resounding 4-0 win which kept them one point ahead of Celtic with two games to play.

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They announced an even stronger team for Copenhagen.

Badminton championships likely to be dominated by China

COPENHAGEN (R) — Less than two years after they joined the international badminton fraternity, China look set to extend their growing domination of the sport at the World Championships here next week.

When the championships were last held in Jakarta three years ago, Indonesia grabbed four of the five titles, but if any nation matches that achievement here, it will be the Chinese.

The other three are Li Lingwei, Han Aiping and Zheng Lili. There is not even room in the singles for Wu Jianqiu, runner-up to Zhang at the All-England this year, though she will play in the doubles.

Luan Jin's triumph over world number one Morten Frost of Denmark in the All-England final last month, reversing the 1982 final result, showed that he now has acquired the stamina to go with his strength.

His muscular smashing is a formidable weapon and Frost, the top seed despite his defeat last month, will have to find a way of dealing with it here.

Luan is seeded fourth, and will meet Frost again in the semifinals here if both survive to that stage.

China have another big hope for the title in Han Jian, who skipped the All-England to prepare for the world event.

Han is seeded second, though if

Frost can overturn Luan in the semifinals he may have less to fear in the final from Han, whom he crushed 15-4, 15-4 in the All-England event in 1982.

Han, meanwhile, will have to overcome Liem Swie King of Indonesia in the other semifinal if neither player falls along the way.

China's world class men's doubles team of Yao Ximing and Su Zhan could produce that title for their country, though they are seeded second behind the Swedes who are the world's best now, Thomas Kihlstrom and Stefan Karlsson.

Only in the mixed doubles are the Chinese lagging behind the Europeans, for whom Kihlstrom and Nora Perry of England should take the title.

The championships have attracted entries from such unfashionable badminton nations as Iceland, Peru and Mexico, rare visitors to the big events, but it will be the traditional powers such as Indonesia, Denmark and England who will threaten the Chinese.

Indonesia will be out to avenge a dismal All-England, where their three men's singles entrants went out on the first day and their last doubles team disappeared on the second.

In 1980 when their men had been doing badly, Indonesia called the great Rudy Hartono out of retirement and he responded by taking the world title.

Ironically, Hartono is in charge of the team here and he will have to inspire another such miracle if the Indonesians are to carry off the title.

Liem Icu Sugiaro heads their bid for the men's crown while Indonesia have two strong pairs in the doubles. But their women's team seems weak.

In what will be her last big international event before she retires, Denmark's Lene Koppen, the winner of the first world title in 1977, is the main threat to the Chinese women.

It would be fitting if Koppen, 29, bowed out as a winner, but after failing at the quarter-final stage of the All-England, it will be a surprise if she does much better here.

Another interesting entry in the women's event is 1981 All-England champion Sumi Hwang of South Korea. Injuries have set her back over the past two years, but she won so impressively in London in 1981 that she could be an outside threat if she rediscovers her best form.

Lendl, Scanlon meet in WCT semi-final

DALLAS (R) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia subdued a surprisingly stubborn Steve Denton 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 Friday night to reach the semi-finals of the World Championship Tennis finance tournament.

His opponent at Reunion Arena will be local favourite Bill Scanlon, who disposed of South Africa's Kevin Curren by 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Lendl, playing with his right thigh heavily strapped, needed just one service break in each set to eliminate Denton, a 26-year-old Texan who was spurred on by a noisy crowd.

Denton, beginning nervously with two double faults, lost the opening game and the rest of the set went with service. The second and third sets followed a similar pattern, with Denton losing his

service just once after beginning with a double fault.

He tried to unsettle Lendl, 23, by rushing to the net, but the Czechoslovak outwitted him with precise passing shots.

"I tried to play aggressively against him," Denton told reporters. "I had a couple of chances to break his serve."

"I felt like I could have played a little better on his serve, but I played pretty decently on my serve."

Lendl said he was fortunate to benefit from two double faults in the opening game. "If he serves well, you've got trouble," he said.

"I was pretty happy with my game because I didn't make too many mistakes, but I didn't make many good shots either."

Lendl said he was playing with his thigh strapped because of a nagging pain when he extends his

muscle.

Referring to the effectiveness of the bandage, he remarked: "It hurts me when I don't wear it, but it doesn't hurt when I wear it."

Curren, recovering from a fever brought on by an insect bite, started surprisingly strongly and dominated the first set. But then his serve lost its bite, and he committed numerous errors in dropping the next three sets to a steady Scanlon.

Curren, 25, spent three days in hospital after contracting ricettsia, a sickness brought on by an insect that bit him two weeks ago at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

He had wanted to withdraw as he still felt weak, but felt obliged to play because his family had come from South Africa to watch him.

"I got very tired in the second set but I got my second wind and was able to keep going," Curren said.

"I wasn't able to serve hard or exert any pressure throughout the match. I was just going through the motions."

Scanlon, 26, said he felt flat in the first set, but took command in the second set when he began staying back and playing longer rallies.

"He (Curren) became more and more tired, and that gave me a little more momentum and spark," he told reporters.

Scanlon said his strategy against Lendl would be to play aggressively at the net.

The other semi-final will be between second seed John McEnroe and Vitas Gerulaitis.

Jordan Cycling Federation honours late Mohammad Tarif Al Khayyat

By Riyad M. Ahmad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (R) — In a truly dedicated attempt to mark the annual anniversary of the late Mohammad Tarif Al Khayyat's tragic death on April 30, 1982, and to inaugurate the newly established cycling club (first of its kind in Jordan), which carries his name,

the Jordanian Cycling Federation in collaboration with Tarif's cycling club Saturday organised a combined: singles and team cycling race.

The 60 km race, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who also attended the contest, was launched at 2:15 p.m. at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology of which Mohammad Tarif was a former architecture student and a prominent basketball player.

Ziad At Dmou (116) member of the new cycling club and a sec-

ondary school student won the race. Mr. Dmou also won the last 48 km cycling race. Samer Hamzah another member of the same team came second, while Ahmad Bdour from the Yarmouk University team was third leaving the fourth place for Salim Al Ashhab. More than 30 cyclists took part in the race. The participants followed the route to Tela' Al Ali, then to Al Hussein Medical Centre, Eighth Circle, Queen Alia Airport Highway, Seventh Circle, Sixth Circle, Fifth Circle, Um Uteishin, Mecca Street, Tela' Al Ali, then back to the starting ref-

erence point.

Mohammad Tarif Al Khayyat cycling team, the race winners, competed with two other major sports clubs representing the Arab Sports Club Irbid, and the Yarmouk University.

The Prince who promised to support the newly inaugurated club distributed the trophies to individual winners and team event winners.

The winning cyclists trophy was presented by Tarif's father Dr.

Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, the Dean of Faculty of Sharif (Islamic studies) at the University of Jordan.

Chinese men keep up storming progress at world table tennis

TOKYO (R) — The Chinese men's team chalked up wins over South Korea and Yugoslavia Saturday as they kept up their storming progress on the third day of the 37th World Table Tennis Championships here.

The Chinese have won all five of their matches at the start of the 10-day tournament and look unbeatable.

The only blemish was when powerful South Korean Kim Wan beat China's Young Fan Chang-nam 21-18, 18-21, 21-18. The huge cheers that greeted Kim's success were an expression of general relief that the Chinese machine was not totally invincible.

But China went on to clinch the match 5-1 and later trounced a tough Yugoslav team 5-0.

On Sunday China meet France who beat West Germany Saturday in one of the longest and most absorbing battles of the tournament. The West Germans, 4-0 down, pulled back to 4-4 to set up a nerve-tangling decider to the

four-hour marathon between Patrick Renswe and Jorgen Rebel.

Renswe won the first set for Germany 21-19, saw the margin reversed in the second and then climbed against Renswe's explosive forehand attack, going down 21-9 in the third.

West Germany went on later to defeat the United States 5-3 and in another group 'A' men's team match, Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 5-1.

In men's group 'B' matches, 15-year-old schoolboy Carl Prean played brilliantly to score three wins in England's 5-2 victory over former world champions Hungary. Prean's successes included a 21-19, 23-25, 21-16 win over ex-world champion Istvan Jonyer.

Shriver, Turnbull reach Atlanta tennis semi-finals

ATLANTA (R) — Pam Shriver and Australian Wendy Turnbull both scored straight-set victories Friday to advance to the semi-finals of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament.

The fourth and sixth fastest times respectively.

The Brahman of Italian Riccardo Patrese was fifth to complete a monopoly of the first three rows of the grid by the turbo Ferraris, Renault and Brabham teams.

"We are confident," said Prost, winner of the French Grand Prix two weeks ago.

But Williams driver Jacques Laffite, carried to 16th position by his Ford Cosworth-powered machine, spelt out a warning that the non-turbo cars still have a chance on this twisting, hilly track.

"We can't match the turbo's in practice. But reliability can be end differently from what most people seem to expect," he said.

There are a lot of questions to

LAOOC close to naming shooting venue

LOS ANGELES (R) — Officials from the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC) said they were close to solving their last major problem—the selection of a site for the shooting events.

A committee spokesman said Friday that the LAOOC, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Shooting Federation (ITF) had narrowed the possible sites to four and hoped the final decision would be made before June 15.

The shooting site became a controversial issue when the IOC refused to sanction Las Vegas as the venue, citing the long distance from Los Angeles.

The four potential sites are all in Southern California and less than from Los Angeles.

Irish-trained colt lauds 2,000 Guineas

NEWMARKET, England (R) — Rene Arnoux of France, driving a turbo Ferrari to "the absolute limit," Saturday grabbed pole position for the San Marino Formula One Grand Prix Sunday with a lap of one minute 31.238 seconds.

But Brazilian World Championship leader Nelson Piquet prevented a Ferrari one-two at the front of the grid. He took his turbo Brabham around the Imola track in 1:31.964 to finish between Arnoux and Ferrari's other driver, Frenchman Patrick Tambay, who was only fractionally slower in 1:31.967.

Arnoux delighted thousands of local fans by chopping more than two seconds off his leading time

Friday on one of the last laps of the second official practice session on

the five-km circuit.

"I drove at the absolute limit of my abilities. I don't think it would be possible to go any faster," he said.

It was the second day of absolute domination for the turbo cars, which clocked the 10 fastest times. The best-placed driver of a conventional car, Finnish World Champion Keke Rosberg, took 11th place

Chinese report pinpoints main economic problems

PEKING (R) — A highly self-critical report on the Chinese economy in 1982 incorporating the first official figure ever given for the country's gross national product was released by China's State Statistical Bureau Friday.

The annual report pinpointed three main problem areas despite an overall improvement during the year:

They were an excessive rise in fixed asset investment and unplanned use of such funds, no marked improvement in production, construction and commodity circulation and an over-extended energy supply and transport system.

The bureau said the 1982 gross national product, the total value of goods and services produced including government and private spending, rose nine per cent over 1981 to 989.4 billion yuan (\$495 billion).

Previously China measured economic growth by an aggregate known as total industrial and agricultural output value.

The total value of industrial and agricultural production in 1982 rose 8.7 per cent over 1981 to 829.1 billion yuan (\$415 billion), the report said.

An 11 per cent rise in agricultural production was accounted for by linking output with money incentives and good weather which produced a record 353.4 million tonnes grain harvest, it said.

On a gloomier note, the report revealed that 45.5 per cent of money put into capital construction was non-productive and funds for key projects in energy,

communications and agriculture suffered.

Results for industrial production as a whole were poor, the report said, with many enterprises still over-emphasising output at the expense of real demand.

China has recently aimed to boost light industrial output to provide more bicycles, watches, televisions and other consumer goods.

Although light output rose 5.7 per cent over 1981, a bureau spokesman said: "Development of the light industry is not yet enough to meet increased purchasing power."

The report showed that average annual per capita net income rose 15.2 per cent from 1981 to 270 yuan (\$135), while the overall level of retail prices went up 1.9 per cent.

Heavy industry surged by 9.9 per cent, taking up energy resources and construction funds needed for the light sector.

Total energy produced rose by 5.7 per cent but still could not meet national development needs, the report said.

Coal output rose about seven per cent to 666 million tonnes but oil climbed a mere 0.9 per cent to 102.12 million tonnes (2 million barrels per day).

The report said communications were inadequate for China's needs. "Railway transport, banding capacity at ports and telecommunications cannot keep pace with the economy."

In foreign trade China managed a 5.66 billion yuan (\$2.83 billion) surplus, after a 12 billion deficit last year.

Spanish bankers strike

MADRID (R) — Spanish bank workers started an eight-day strike Friday which reduced retail banking services but left interbank and international activities untouched, bankers contacted by Reuters said.

The bankers said pickets were protesting outside some large bra-

nches, some locks had been sealed with glue and some automatic banking machines had been damaged.

Bank workers held a three-day strike last month to back wage claims which have still not been settled.

Romania to lose exports

WASHINGTON (R) — Romania stands to lose half its exports to the United States because of an order by President Reagan, a congressional committee report said Saturday.

The Senate foreign relations committee predicted that exports to the United States would drop by \$200 million to \$250 million after higher tariffs take effect on July 1.

Mr. Reagan in March ordered the end of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for Romania because of its "education repayment decree" requiring would-be emigrants to pay for their schooling as a condition to leaving.

Mr. Reagan's decision would leave Hungary as the only Soviet-bloc nation to get the same low tariffs as other U.S. trading partners.

Export record boosts Britain's trade surplus

LONDON (R) — Britain's exports rose to a record value last month, carrying the balance of payments to a £556 million (\$867 million) surplus.

The government, announcing this Friday, called the figures "splendid."

March was the second month in a row in which British trade figures showed a big improvement after a nosedive in January.

Visible trade — actual goods imported and exported — was in surplus by £376 million (\$587 million) after a February deficit of £138 million (\$215 million).

Exports rose last month to £5.28 billion (\$8.24 billion), which Trade Secretary Cockfield said was the highest monthly value and the second highest volume ever recorded.

Imports fell £4.91 billion (\$7.66 billion).

The balance of payments, which includes other business such as insurance and travel, had plunged £311 million (\$485 million) into the red in January and showed a £42 million (\$65 million) surplus in February.

Lord Cockfield told reporters the returns confirmed the optimistic tone of a recent survey of businessmen by the Confederation of British Industry.

Exports of North Sea oil have sustained Britain's balance of payments through a long period in which it would otherwise have shown huge deficits, but the trade secretary said the March figures showed that the recovery of non-oil exports, which began last year, was continuing.

Even so, in the first three months of this year Britain ran a trade deficit of £2.2 billion (\$3.4 billion) in goods other than oil and some special items that are recorded separately because dealing in them is very erratic.

Main U.S. indicators show mild recovery

WASHINGTON (R) — The government's index of leading indicators rose a healthy 1.5 per cent last month, suggesting the United States is continuing to regain its economic vitality, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The index, designed to forecast economic activity, has now risen for seven consecutive months.

The March increase was slightly higher than the 1.4 per cent gain in February but less than the 3.3 per cent rise in January, the largest monthly advance in more than 30 years.

The slower rise for March and February supports the view of private and administration economists that the recovery now in progress will be subdued and uneven.

Last month seven of the 11 economic trends charted by the index rose, led by a rise in long-depressed prices for basic raw materials.

Another promising sign was last month's lengthening of the average work week. Robust activity by investors on the nation's financial markets and growth in the supply of money also aided the index.

Among the factors which tempered the March gain was a rise in the number of workers filing first-time claims for state unemployment insurance benefits.

Non-aligned states plan to promote economic views

NEW DELHI (R) — A nine-nation ministerial group of non-aligned states is drawing up a campaign plan for lobbying the rich industrialised countries to promote Third World economic views.

The group met in Delhi Friday and was expected later Saturday to finalise its strategy for putting across the ideas of developing states on international economic relations.

The two-day meeting was called by India, Chairman of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement, ahead of a series of important conferences on international economic relations.

The movement has its eye on next month's summit of the top seven non-communist industrial powers in Williamsburg, Virginia, and meetings of communist bloc countries and the Belgrade session of the United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) in June.

The non-aligned group is debating the best way of ensuring that Third World views are adequately taken into consideration at these meetings, an Indian spokesman said.

Among suggestions being considered is a proposal for high-level teams to visit industrialised states for talks with governments.

The meeting in the Indian capital is being attended by India, Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

The spokesman told reporters that Iran had questioned the basis on which countries were invited to the meeting but had not registered any objection to those taking part.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Soviet food plan gives low result

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet agricultural output has declined in some areas since the so-called food programme was announced a year ago and in most others there have been few substantial improvements, according to reports published Saturday.

The forces of inertia and a devotion to bureaucratic methods are still having a major effect," Mr. Nikolai Slyunakov, the party chief of Byelorussia, was quoted as saying.

Managers were still spending most of their time passing papers to each other or having "meaningless discussions in countless meetings" instead of getting down to doing the job properly.

Soviet leader Mr. Yuri Andropov voiced deep dissatisfaction with the poor state of Soviet agriculture in a speech last week and demanded sharp improvements in the coming months.

The series of regional meetings appeared aimed at hammering home the same message for local consumption.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fine day to express what is best for you in a spiritual way and to be more concerned with close ties. Make a point to go where you can gain the most happiness.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Morning is best for meditation and you will know how to propel your life better in the future. Retire early tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get together with good friends of long standing for the recreation you enjoy. Make plans for having greater abundance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Engaging in activities that is philosophical in nature is wise today. Make extensive plans for the week ahead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A good time to study new outlets that could be lucrative for you in the future. Strive for increased happiness.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Follow your hunches which are accurate at this time. Look over your surroundings and make plans for improvement.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't make any changes now without the approval of close ties. Attend the services of your choice and become inspired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make improvements to your environment that are needed. Come to the aid of a friend who would appreciate your help now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Showing more love for home and family can make this a most worthwhile day. Avoid one who gossips too much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stay at home as much as you can today and improve your property. Show that you are a thoughtful person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan the new week's activities wisely so that you can get the most done in the minimum of time. Think constructively.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study how to have more of the world's goods in an ethical fashion. You can easily inspire others with your ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is an excellent day to meet with a close tie and to make mutual plans for the future. Relax at home tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . he or she will be able to understand the overall picture of any situation and then reduce it to a workable level. Give as fine an education as you can afford and the success in this chart is assured. Don't neglect ethical training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword

By Sophie Fiennes

ACROSS	23 Woebegone	48 Indian	12 Singles
1 Eustache	24 Ascot	49 princess	13 Be con-
2 pursuits	25 Stinger	50 Newspaper	cerned
5 — Here to	26 Virtue	notices	20 Shoe tip
Eternity"	31 More	53 Like some	21 Assist
9 Take-out	sensitive	land	24 Carry
words	34 Oundo	56 Author's	25 Very popu-
13 Slimk	35 — Ranger	business	lar novel
14 Mother of	36 Cleaner's	expenses	27 Rowboat
Castor	employee	Object of	propellers
15 Stove	38 Expresses	workshop	28 Long time
18 Betfuddle	discontent	59 Dyaling	periods
17 Assert	40 Make "fit	apparatus	34 Snicker —
18 Glass sheet	to print"	60 Sidestep	30 Meeting —
19 Author's	41 Bright	61 Otherwisa	31 Outstanding:
sales	sayings	62 Indian	32 Church book
bonuses	43 Curves	garment	33 Bridle
21 Book of	44 Plot	63 Observer	control
maps	46 Picnic	64 Antelope's	37 Sponsorship
22 "Maid of	intruder	plethora?	39 Contrafa-
Athens, —	47 Overhead	65 Gaolie	42 Amalgama-
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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WORLD

Buenos Aires stops visit by Argentine group to Falklands

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's military rulers have averted a possible incident with British forces in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands by banning a trip there by relatives of servicemen killed in last year's fighting with Britain.

At the same time, President Reynaldo Bignone and the ruling military junta have ordered an official ceremony at sea to pay homage to about 800 Argentine soldiers, sailors and airmen who died in the 10-week war.

They announced the measures in a joint communique, issued Friday night only hours before the relatives were due to sail for the Falklands in a chartered vessel in defiance of Britain's refusal to authorise the visit.

The group of 48 relatives had planned to visit an Argentine war cemetery at Port Darwin, where 221 Argentine servicemen are buried.

But Britain banned the trip, organised by a small group of Argentine nationalists after the Red Cross refused to provide supervision for the voyage.

In London Friday night the Foreign Office welcomed the Argentine leaders' move.

The Argentine communique said a naval ship and an air force plane would drop wreaths in the South Atlantic on Monday at the spot about 300 kilometres southwest of the Falklands where a British submarine torpedoed the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano a year ago.

The sinking of the General Belgrano, with the loss of 321 lives, on May 2, 1982, marked the opening of full-scale hostilities between Britain and Argentine forces in the South Atlantic.

Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands on April 2, but Britain sent a seaborne task force to the South Atlantic and recaptured them on June 14.

The official communique said the ship chartered to take the relatives of war dead to the Falklands would be made available instead to take them to the official ceremony at sea.

It explained that in view of Britain's ban on the Falklands visit and in order to safeguard the security of Argentine citizens, all activities outside the official ceremonies in the area were banned.

The communique condemned "the insensitive and intransigent attitude" of Britain in refusing to allow the Falklands visit to take place, but said the Argentine government would study the possibility of arranging a new trip for immediate relatives of Argentine war dead in the future.

Osvaldo Destefanis, organiser of the aborted voyage, was summoned to navy headquarters in Buenos Aires Friday night to be informed that his ship, the 8,000-ton Lago Lacar, had been taken over by the authorities.

Later he protested to journalists at the government's action in depriving him of a ship which he said had been legally chartered and paid for.

Salvadorean rebels, Honduran army exchange fire

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador's leftist guerrillas say they have launched a new offensive, and reported killing six Honduran soldiers said to have been firing artillery rounds across the border in support of government forces.

The insurgents' Radio Venceremos said the Honduras were covering besieged Salvadorean troops with mortar, artillery and tank fire.

They were killed when guerrillas returned the fire across the border, the radio said. It added that eight Salvadorean civilians were killed by Honduran fire.

The guerrillas have often charged that Honduras sends troops to the border to back the Salvadorean army in its sweeps against insurgents. They have also charged that Honduras entered El Salvador to help the army.

The guerrillas launched attacks Friday over a 300 square kilo-

metre area embracing the provinces of La Union, Morazan and San Miguel, all opposite the Honduran border.

Radio Venceremos said the attacks were the guerrillas' response to President Reagan's appeal to Congress last Wednesday for more military aid to El Salvador.

The heaviest fighting was reported to be at the frontier town of El Amatillo on the banks of the Goascorán River which separates El Salvador from Honduras.

Radio Venceremos said the rebels dynamited a bridge spanning the river and burned some 40 vehicles.

Honduran troops on alert

LAJAS, Honduras (R) — Honduran troops have been posted on their border here ready for a possible Salvadorean rebel raid into Honduras, a Honduran military

commander said Saturday.

Col. Limel Riera Lunati said more than 1,000 troops were posted near this border town, 1 kilometer from El Salvador, after guerrillas attacked Salvadorean army positions in the Salvadorean border town of El Amatillo Friday.

He said the guerrillas fired across the border killing at least four Honduran civilians and wounding eight, two seriously.

He said his troops, backed by tanks, answered the rebel fire on the other side of the frontier killing "numerous" guerrillas.

"We are ready for a guerrilla attack here," the colonel said. "Not one guerrilla has or will cross into Honduras."

He said three injured Salvadorean soldiers slipped across the Goascorán River, which separates El Salvador from Honduras, and were taken by helicopter.

They then overran a customs post screaming to the Honduran soldiers on the other side: "Do not interfere."

Fighting was still reported in the area early Saturday.

Rescue workers said that thousands of civilians from both sides of the border were pouring deep into Honduras to avoid bloodshed, but that many people in El Amatillo could not leave because of guerrilla sniper-fire.

Planes and helicopters flew over the border area bombing and strafing it. Heavy artillery fire rained on both sides of the border.

copter back to El Salvador.

Civilians who fled the Salvadorean town of El Amatillo into Honduras said the guerrillas started their attack on the town at 2 a.m. on Friday by burning eight cargo trucks and dynamiting the bridge spanning the Goascorán River.

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